

THE

## **COOK FAMILY**

MISSIONARIES TO ITALY

July-August 2024

Dear Fellow Laborers,

Thank you for laboring with us here in Italy through your prayers, support, and visits to the country! July and August seem to have flown by, but were filled with God's hand of mercy and blessing. July began with two weeks of VBS and a baptism: the first week found us in Grosseto where our children participated in a week long VBS with long time veteran missionary friends; during the second week, we were honored to take a missions trip to Foggia to work alongside our national church planter and his wife, Fausto and Maria Pia D'Amelio, as they had their first baptism and first VBS. Gathered by the Adriatic Sea, believers and unbelievers were there to see Gianluca be baptized. God greatly used that day, to set the tone for the entire week, as God continued to knit together the heart of this young church. Mile stones like that help draw a church plant closer together, as the family of God. Lost souls heard the Gospel, and the church was strengthened. During the VBS, the Lord blessed as several children and their parents joined us at a local park. They heard the Word of God, and one father in particular was interested in meeting with Pastor D'Amelio for Bible studies. Before the trip down to Foggia, we prayed asking the Lord to make us a blessing. We asked to meet one family, and to encourage that family to join the church. And we are praising God, shortly after that week a family that worked in the VBS, joined the Light Baptist Church (Chiesa Battista la Luce) there in Foggia. This October, they'll celebrate their first anniversary as a church. God is at work in church plant in Foggia.

The month of July ended with Kristan having surgery on the 31st to close the 23 mm hole in her heart. We are rejoicing in God's goodness, as the surgery went as smoothly as possible, and the first month of recovery seems to be going well.

In August, we had a visit from two dear missionary families: a Hungarian national church planter and his family, and a family located in central Asia. They were both a huge blessing to us and to our church family. We thank God for them and for the sweet fellowship we had. At the end of the August heat, we had a refreshing day in the mountains with our church, fellowshipping and having a great time together.

Pray for a couple, Giosuè and Ilenia, who were saved a while back, and now they have decided to be baptized! We have been praying for this for some time, and are thrilled that they look to obey the Lord. Their son is the boy that trusted Christ the week of VBS here in June, and it is encouraging to see their family growing in the Lord and walking unashamed of our Savior. Please pray for this young family as they want to have a truly Christian home. I believe God is about to open the door to their bright future, as they are yielded, and meet for the Master's use.

Thank you for your prayers and support. May the Lord bless you as you faithfully serve Him! Until that glorious day when we meet again, have a sweet walk with the Lord.

- Brandon, Kristan, Thomas, Titus, Elisha, and Abigail Cook

<u>Praises:</u> first baptism and VBS in Foggia, Italy, and they had another family joining their church; Kristan's heart surgery and recovery going well; decisions to follow Christ in believer's baptism; Titus' 12<sup>th</sup> and Thomas's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday; Brandon's sister who came to help during Kristan's surgery

<u>Prayer Requests:</u> Anna Maria, an elderly Italian lady, for salvation; Kristan's recovery from heart surgery; October Mission's Month; children as they return to school; a larger building for our church to meet in; our application for citizenship; Laborers to work with us in Reggio Emilia and Italy: We need hundreds of laborers.

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